

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Eric Newland, Area Management Biologist
Breena Apgar-Kurtz, Asst. Area Management Biologist
Lower Yukon Area Office
P.O. Box 127
Emmonak, AK 99581
Phone: (907) 949-1320
Fax: (907) 949-1830
Subsistence Fishing Schedule:
(866) 479-7387 (toll free), or
in Fairbanks, call (907) 459-7387

U.S. Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Subsistence Board
Geoffrey L. Haskett, Regional Director
Kathleen O'Reilly-Doyle, Acting
Asst. Regional Director Subsistence
Fred Bue, Yukon Area Inseason Manager
Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office
101 12th Avenue, Rm 110
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 455-1849 or 1-800-267-3997
Fax (907) 455-1853

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2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #66

Summer Announcement #61, Subdistrict 5-D Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The Pilot Station sonar cumulative passage estimate of approximately 114,000 Chinook salmon through July 14 is well below the historical average of 142,000 for this date. Based on the assessment information to date, the current projection is for a total run size slightly better than the poor run of 2012.

Consistent with actions taken in District 1 through Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C the first pulse closure in Subdistrict 5-D will be followed by reduced subsistence fishing periods.

Because of the large size of Subdistrict 5-D and the long time it takes salmon to migrate all the way through this section of river, this management area will be further subdivided. This strategy is intended to allow for more management precision and flexibility when the reduced subsistence fishing schedule is implemented to conserve Chinook salmon. Subdistrict 5-D, will be divided into the following three areas (Map 1).

Subdistricts 5-D Lower (from an ADF&G regulatory marker 2 miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the Hadweenzic River and including all adjacent tributaries, which includes the communities of Stevens Village and Beaver):

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed. Subsistence salmon fishing will be open for one 24-hour subsistence salmon fishing period from 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, until 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 18. Gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and fish wheels must be equipped with a chute or a live box. Fish wheels must be closely attended while in operation and all Chinook salmon caught in fish wheels must be returned to the water alive.

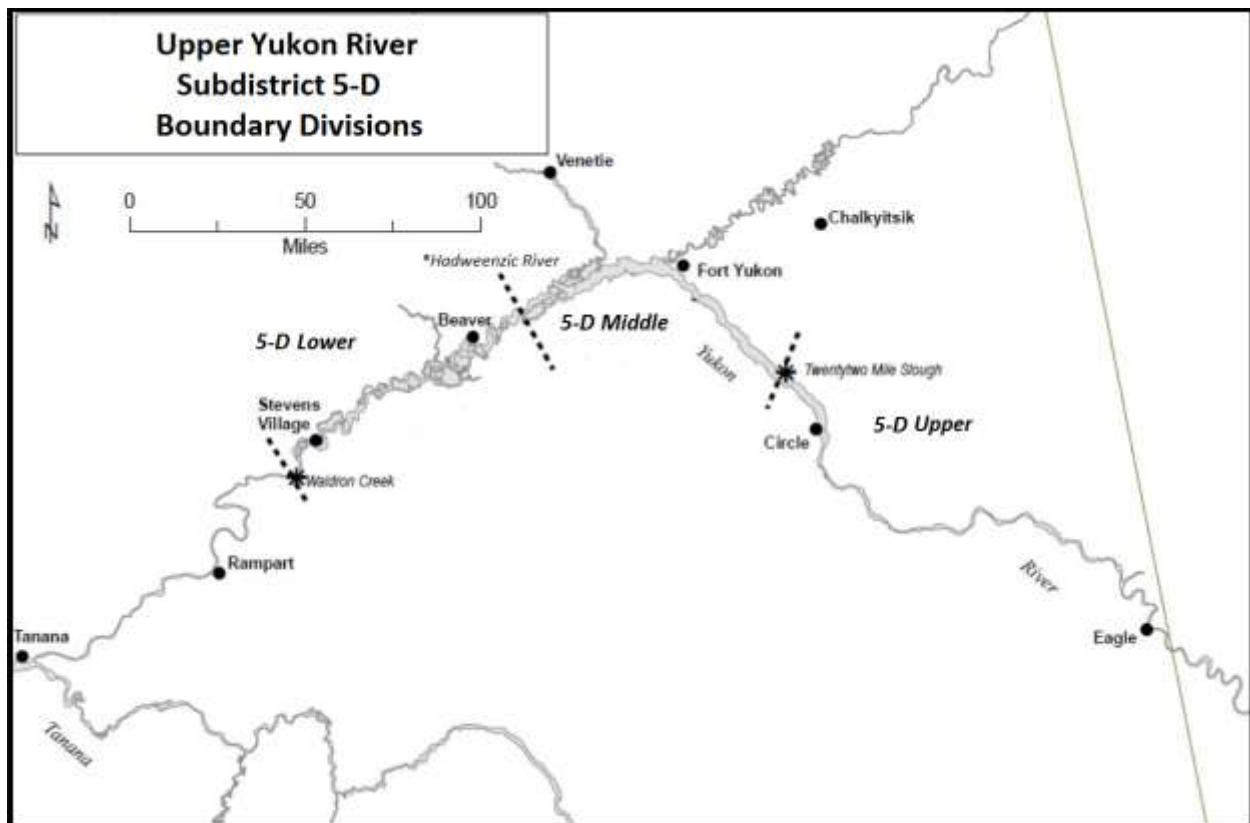
Subdistrict 5-D Middle (from the Hadweenzic River upstream to 22 Mile Slough and including the Porcupine River and all other adjacent tributaries, which includes the communities of Venetie, Fort Yukon, and Chalkyitsik):

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed to protect the first pulse of Chinook salmon and will remain closed until further notice.

Subdistrict 5-D Upper (from 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border and including all adjacent tributaries, which includes the communities of Circle and Eagle):

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size. Effective 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 16, subsistence salmon fishing will close to protect the first pulse of Chinook salmon and will remain closed until further notice.

Map 1: Division of Subdistrict 5-D



The department will notify fishermen by July 19 concerning the subsistence salmon fishing schedule in Subdistrict 5-D.

Subsistence fishermen are reminded that a fishing permit is required to fish for all species in the portion of Subdistrict 5-C and 5-D from the western most tip of Garnet Island upstream to the Dall River, and from the upstream mouth of 22-Mile Slough to the US/Canada Border. Subsistence fishermen outside the permit area are encouraged to fill out their subsistence salmon catch calendars. Calendars are available from the ADFG office in Fairbanks.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387 (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call (907) 459-7387.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADFG office in Fairbanks at 459-7274 or in Emmonak at 949-1320. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can be contacted in Fairbanks at 456-0418.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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